

Pershing, John J.

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John Joseph "Black Jack" Pershing, b. Laclede, Mo., Sept. 13, 1860, d. July 15, 1948, commanded the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) in World War I. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1886 and then served in the cavalry in the West. He received a law degree from the University of Nebraska and joined (1896) the staff at army headquarters in Washington, D.C. He returned to West Point in 1897 as a member of the tactical staff.

During the Spanish-American War, Pershing distinguished himself at Kettle and San Juan hills, later serving as head of the War Department's new Division of Customs and Insular Affairs. He went (1899) to the Philippines, where he led a series of important expeditions among the hostile Moros. In 1905 he became military attache in Tokyo and then went to Manchuria as an observer of the Russo-Japanese War.

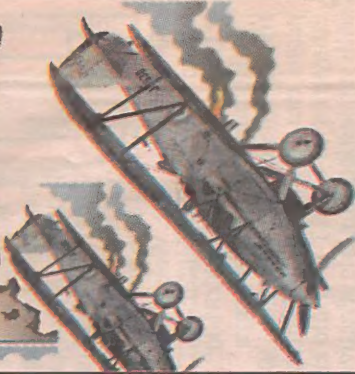
In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt elevated Pershing in rank from captain to brigadier general. Pershing took command of Fort McKinley near Manila and then became (1909) governor of Moro province in the southern Philippines, thoroughly defeating the Moros by 1913. Given command of the 8th Brigade in 1914, he led (1916-17) the difficult punitive expedition against Pancho VILLA in Mexico. Experience and seniority brought him command of the AEF in 1917.

Pershing's tasks in France during World War I were more managerial than warlike; he had to organize, train, and supply an inexperienced force that eventually numbered more than 2 million. Constantly rebuffing British and French efforts to siphon his men off into their depleted ranks, Pershing found himself waging two wars—against the Germans and against the Allies. AEF successes in the war were largely credited to Pershing, and he emerged from the war as its most celebrated American hero. Congress created for him a new rank, general of the armies. His memoirs, *My Experiences in the World War* (2 vols., 1931), won him the 1932 Pulitzer Prize for history.

Frank E. Vandiver

Bibliography: Braddy, Haldeen, *Pershing's Mission in Mexico* (1966; repr. 1979); Goldhurst, Richard, *Pipe Clay and Drill: John J. Pershing—The Classic American Soldier* (1976); Palmer, Frederick, *John J. Pershing, General of the Armies, A Biography* (1948; repr. 1979); Smyth, D., *Pershing* (1986); Vandiver, Frank E., *Black Jack: Life and Times of John J. Pershing*, 2 vols. (1977).

NOW YOU KNOW



The U.S. Post Office started airmail service in 1918, and 31 of the first 40 mail pilots on the New York-Chicago run died in crashes.

6-27-97

Crops raised in Provo River Valley

Certain Apples
 Watermelons
 Cantelope
 Alfalfa
 Peas
 Sugarbeets
 Corn
 Cabbage
 Lettuce
 Wheat
 Tomatoes
 Radishes
 Onions
 Table Beets
 Currants
 Potatoes

WILLIAM BEELER

William Beeler was the son-in-law of Moroni and Mary McOlney. It is reported

SAULTS UPON THE MOUNTAINS

that he was noted for his beautiful flower garden, and that he introduced the first currant bushes to Provo valley. He lived in the Fort Street

added to
 list of names
 William Beeler
 Raymond Beeler
 from 1840s

References:

1. H B M p.919 Crops in Wallsburg.